

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
25 SHATTUCK STREET
BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS

September 25, 1958

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
The University of Wisconsin
Department of Medical Genetics
School of Medicine -Genetics Building
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

I very much appreciate your willingness to go ahead with the Mueller lecture this fall, despite what must be an exceptionally crowded year. As to the topic, we would equally welcome either bacterial recombination or ~~genetic~~ basis of antibody formation and differentiation. I can readily understand that you might be bored with the first and rather diffident about the necessarily speculative nature of the second. However, if you chose the second I know that you would do it with such broad biological perspective that there would be no danger of its seeming too thin and speculative. I wouldn't let the Mueller tradition play a role in the decision - after all, his predecessor was Zinsser and his successor you know!

When you have decided on the topic I would appreciate your sending a title as soon as you can. It may take us some weeks to get placards printed and distributed.

If October 30th is the only date that you can make without great inconvenience we'll be glad to arrange it for that. However, it would be a great favor for me and for the rest of the department if you could manage to come a week or two later. It is not a question of an overlap in content between your material and Monod's, but rather the fact that these are the only two occasions in the year in which our department will be host to a good deal of the rest of the community, and I think we might enjoy the parties more, and have better audiences for the lectures, if they didn't crowd on each other's heels.

I look forward to your visit, and I'm particularly glad to learn that Esther may be able to make it too. The University puts up its important guests in a carefully preserved colonial house in Cambridge in which, I am told, ~~antique authenticity~~ does not extend to springs and mattresses!

Sincerely,

Bernie

Bernard D. Davis